

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 00328 141551Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 EB-08 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
ITC-01 IGA-02 DHA-02 EUR-12 /106 W
-----141805Z 035263 /41

R 141350Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4194
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0328

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GY
SUBJECT: PPP STATEMENT ON GOG DECISION TO SEEK FORM OF
ASSOCIATION WITH COMECON

REF: GEORGETOWN 0161

SUMMARY: THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) HAS
ISSUED COMMUNIQUE COMMENTING THAT GOG'S DECISION TO REQUEST
FORM OF ASSOCIATION WITH COMECON IS POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS
IMPROVED ECONOMIC SITUATION BUT THAT GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO
DEVELOP DOMESTIC POLICES AND INSTITUTIONS TO CORRESPOND WITH
SOCIALIST ECONOMY. THIS LINE IS TYPICAL OF PPP WHICH IS
SEEKING TO PUSH GOG LEFTWARD BY CONSTANT CRITICISM OF ITS
SOCIALISM. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 31, PPP ISSUED COMMUNIQUE COMMENDING GOG
DECISION TO SEEK ASSOCIATION WITH COMECON AND GOVERNMENT
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NATIONALIZATION OF ECONOMY BUT NOTED THAT THESE POSITIVE
STEPS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY CHANGES IN POLITICAL,
INSTITUTIONAL, IDEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL SUPERSTRUCTURE IN
ORDER TO SOLVE GRAVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING GUYANA. STATE-
MENT EMPHASIZED THAT, AS EVIDENCED BY EXAMPLE OF MEXICO AND
IRAN, ASSOCIATION WITH COMECON CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A PANACEA
FOR ECONOMIC ILLS. PPP POINTED OUT THAT POLITICAL PROBLEMS

MUST BE SOLVED AS PREREQUISITE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY.
SPECIFICALLY, THERE MUST BE FULL EXERCISE OF DEMOCRATIC
FREEDOMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL AND RADICAL (SIC)
DISCRIMINATION MUST BE ENDED.

2. THE COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINED THAT, CONTRARY TO RECENT
GOVERNMENT PRONOUNCEMENTS, THE GRAVE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN
GUYANA IS NOT EXCLUSIVELY DUE TO WORLDWIDE INFLATION, DE-
CLINGIN PRICE OF SUGAR, AND ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, BUT
IS TRACEABLE TO PAST EIGHT YEARS OF PRO-IMPERIALIST DOMESTIC
AND FOREIGN POLICIES FOLLOWED BY RULING GOVERNMENT. PPP
COMMUNIQUE CLAIMED THAT IT HAD CONSISTENTLY BEEN CALLING
FOR AN ANTI-IMPERIALIST, SOCIALIST-ORIENTED PROGRAM.

3. EMBOFF HAS LEARNED FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT PPP
CLEARED STATEMENT WITH SOVIETS HERE PRIOR TO ISSUANCE.

4. STATEMENT WAS CARRIED IN FULL IN PPP MIRROR AND IN
EDITED FORM IN CHRONICLE WHICH NOTED THAT PPP HAD APPROVED
REQUEST FOR ASSOCIATION WITH COMECON AND THAT A HIGH-LEVEL
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE WITH PPP REPRESENTATION WAS CURRENTLY
INVESTIGATING INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO SUPPORT
SOCIALIST ECONOMY.

5. COMMENT: STATEMENT IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF DUBIOUS
ADVANTAGE FOR GOVERNMENT OF PPP POLICY OF CRITICAL
SUPPORT. GOG'S EXTREME SENSITIVITY TOWARDS PPP
CRITICISM OF ITS SOCIALIST CREDENTIALS AND ITS
AWARENESS OF PPP'S CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SOVIETS IS
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IMPORTANT FORCE PUSHING IT LEFTWARD IN EFFORT TO NEU-
TRALIZE ITS MAIN OPPOSITION. UNTIL NOW GOG HAS TRIED
TO PLACATE PPP AND OTHER GUYANESE RADICALS WITH USE OF
RADICAL RHETORIC, HYPERACTIVE ROLE IN NON-ALIGNED
AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES, BUT HAS SHIED AWAY FROM MAKING THE DOMESTIC
INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES NECESSARY TO SATISFY THE PPP AND
ITS FRIENDS. END COMMENT.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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